

Mr. THOMAS. I am perfectly satisfied from the explanations made by members of several committees here, that the committees need another clerk, and therefore I am prepared to vote for this order. As to our committee clerks not attending to their duties, I rather think they have attended to their duties as well as the members of this Convention have attended to theirs. I think those who live in glass houses should not throw stones.

Mr. TODD. I would like to have this order amended by adding "the Committee on Future Amendments to the Constitution."

Mr. NEGLEY. I will accept the amendment. I will simply state that this gentleman is very competent, and I am satisfied will do as much writing as two ordinary men.

Mr. HEBB. The remarks that have fallen here from various members of committees may be considered a reflection upon our committee clerks. I can only say that I know that they have been sitting here ready to work, but with nothing to do. They have spoken to me several times, and told me they had nothing to do. For that reason I shall vote against this order.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. I am satisfied that we now have clerks enough appointed to perform all the clerical work of the Convention. They are ready and willing to do the work, but it may be that members do not know the committee clerks when they see them. I am sure that is the case, for I have heard gentlemen remark that they had performed clerical duties for their committees, when in one case I know that at the very time the gentleman made the remark, there was a clerk in the committee room while he was attending to the duties of clerk himself. It must be that gentlemen do not know the clerks. I am satisfied if they will inquire they will find the clerks willing and competent to do all the work required of them.

Mr. ABBOTT. I hope that no one will think that I intended to cast any reflection upon any clerk of our committees. I simply desired to state that I had not yet seen any of the clerks, but I supposed they were engaged upon any committees.

The PRESIDENT. I do not know that it is the duty of a clerk to attend all the sessions of a committee, unless he is directed or requested to do so. He is to copy all manuscripts handed to him, &c.

Mr. NEGLEY. I am satisfied there is a deficiency of clerical force here. The gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Stockbridge) says that he considers the clerical force sufficient. But members should consider that there are seventeen standing committees, and I do not know how many outside committees. And I hold it to be utterly impossible for a man to be in two places at the same time; and I cannot conceive how four men can be in seventeen different places at the same time. Our committees generally meet in the early part

of the day before the session of the Convention commences. We have but four committee clerks now, and the old Convention had a much larger clerical force than that. And I am sure, from statements made by gentlemen here, that we need the services of at least another clerk.

Mr. DANIEL. I will move as an amendment, that the President be directed to appoint the clerks among the several committees. Then, if it is found that there is any necessity for more clerks, I will be ready to vote for their appointment.

The PRESIDENT. The amendment the gentleman proposes would be more appropriate in the form of a substitute. He will reduce it to writing and submit it.

Mr. THRUSTON. I would say, as a member of the Committee on the Legislative Department, that we have had a clerk who has been very attentive and industrious. It is true I have seen committee clerks about here all the time unemployed, but I am sure it is because gentlemen do not know who they are. I shall vote against this order, because I think there are already a sufficient number of clerks.

Mr. BRISCOE. I would inquire how many committee clerks there are already appointed?

The PRESIDENT. There are four.

Mr. BRISCOE. It seems to me that these clerks have not been employed—have had nothing to do. I think that number might be able to go from one committee room to another, and do all the work of this Convention. The work here is not like the ordinary business of the Legislature. Here there are only a certain number of reports to be made, while in the Legislature there are generally from four hundred to five hundred bills to be drawn every session. And yet the Legislature has but five or six committee clerks. It does seem to me that four clerks are sufficient to perform all the work we require of them. If it shall be ascertained hereafter that there are not enough, then we can increase the number. That is my view of it, though there is such a variety of opinion about the subject that I cannot understand exactly how to vote.

Mr. SCHLEY. It affords me pleasure, as the chairman of the Committee on the Legislative Department, to add my testimony to that of the gentleman from Allegany, (Mr. Thruston,) and to state that we have a very attentive and industrious clerk, and I think we have abundant occupation for him. I know also that there is a general misapprehension about the clerks here. Those who are here I am sure have been more employed than the Convention is aware of; they have been a great deal employed. It may be that they have not been constantly and regularly employed for the reason assigned here, that they are not known to members of the committees, but I do think there is occupation enough for them all, and I am aware, besides, that the gentleman in whose favor this proposition is